

## Questions from Providers

### 1. How is my patient's immunization record and information protected?

NESIIS users must be authorized to have access to data stored in NESIIS. Users must sign an agreement and follow strict confidentiality and security policies. Protection of IIS data is managed through state privacy, confidentiality, and security laws, through compliance with federal privacy rules and regulations, such as the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPPA) of 1996.

### 2. What can NESIIS do for my practice?

NESIIS can:

- reduce your paperwork and save staff time;
- consolidate immunizations from all providers into one record;
- provide easy access and reliable immunization histories for any child, (new or current patients), even if immunizations were received at a public health clinic;
- provide information on immunizations, due or overdue;
- provide patient reminders and recalls for immunizations, due or overdue;
- provide your patients' immunizations directly on an official immunization record;
- reduce the number of phone calls you make to schools because they have access to NESIIS to look up their own student's immunization records;
- facilitate introduction of new vaccines or changes in the vaccine schedule;
- help you manage vaccine inventories;
- help you determine what proportion of children in your practice have been adequately immunized;
- help with HEDIS data collection for managed-care organizations; and
- reinforce the concept of the medical home.

NESIIS simplifies immunization record keeping, provides quicker access to immunization records, and helps you keep track of a patient's immunization status. If a parent calls you for their child's immunization history, you can direct them to look up their own records in NESIIS by accessing the public access link to the system.

### 3. Do other states have immunization information systems?

Yes. Approximately 46 states have adopted/developed Immunization information systems to manage their immunization records. There is a nationwide goal that all these systems will be able to communicate and share appropriate data in a secure manner.

**4. Do providers need to create a paper log to track immunizations once in NESIIS?**

Not necessarily; this is specific to an organization's infrastructure. NESIIS allows a facility to manage their vaccine inventory as well as record immunizations administered to their patients. Providers can then print a detailed immunization history report and insert it into the patient's medical chart after each visit, therefore eliminating the need to "hand-write" immunizations into a chart.

**5. Will training sessions be provided on the NESIIS application?**

Yes. Interested providers may contact the Department of Health and Human Services Immunization Program to set-up personalized training for their staff. Training sessions are free of charge and various forms of training are available.

Contact 888-433-2510 Monday through Friday from 8:00AM – 5:00PM for further information about training.

**6. Is a help desk available for further assistance with the NESIIS application?**

Yes. All NESIIS users have access to the help desk for assistance with questions on how to use the NESIIS application as well as answers to questions regarding technical assistance.

**7. Is NESIIS access available only during normal business hours?**

NESIIS access is available to all authorized users 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

**8. Are there fees associated with participation in NESIIS?**

No. The access and use of NESIIS within your organization is free of charge, which includes training sessions, profile account, professional start-up assistance, and ongoing technical support.

**9. How will NESIIS affect my office staff's workload?**

As with any new program, there is a learning curve. NESIIS was built with the clinician in mind and is extremely user friendly. NESIIS will help streamline your clinic's daily operations with its built-in inventory management system, dose forecasting, and maintenance mechanisms that allow you to enter immunization records with just a point and a click. NESIIS provides public access to parents and schools that will decrease the call volume of your clinic and the requests for copies of immunization records.

**10. What kinds of organizations use NESIIS?**

NESIIS is used by various organizations including:

- Schools
- Medical clinics (public and private)
- Colleges
- Hospitals
- Home Health
- Medicaid
- Nursing homes/Long term care
- Indian Health Service (IHS)/Native American Tribal
- Travel Clinics

**11. If my organization already has an electronic medical record system, why would I want access to NESIIS?**

In most cases, EMR systems do not have a built-in inventory management system like NESIIS offers. With the creation of an interface between your current EMR system and NESIIS, both systems will be able to communicate with one another and eliminate the need for double data entry. In addition, NESIIS is a statewide program. Adopting NESIIS into your practice will allow you to search for immunization records of anyone who was born within the State of Nebraska or has received immunization services within the state. NESIIS also offers a vaccine recommendation schedule that will help you determine what immunizations are needed and when and it has the ability to evaluate a patient's record and determine whether, or not, he or she is to be placed on an accelerated catch-up schedule.

**12. Is NESIIS HL7 compliant?**

Yes. NESIIS does comply with HL7 (PHINMS) standards and does have ASCII flat file upload capabilities as well.

**13. What are the minimum requirements for the computer equipment and software needed to access NESIIS?**

The great part about using NESIIS is that there is absolutely no software for you to load or maintain at your organization. All of the data entered is secure and managed by the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services. All you need on your computer is internet access and you can use the following browsers:

- Internet Explorer
- Firefox
- Safari

**14. Can adults have their immunization histories recorded into NESIIS?**

Yes. NESIIS is an across the life-span immunization information system. Anyone who wishes to have their paper immunization record entered electronically may visit their local public health clinic, their private physician's office, or mail a copy of the record to the State of Nebraska Immunization Program.

**15. Who can enter immunization histories into NESIIS?**

Each organization determines which members of their staff will have access to NESIIS. The organization also decides the role that an individual will have within NESIIS for security purposes. This decision is made by each organization based upon the clinic infrastructure. Some clinics have their clerical staff enter and maintain their immunization records as other organizations have both clerical and medical staff entering demographic and immunization data.

**16. Are providers required to back-enter the records of existing patients?**

No. Providers can enter the immunization histories of all patients. Typically, immunizations histories are entered when patients visit the clinic for immunizations. A complete immunization history offers key benefits such as dose forecasting, generation of an official immunization record, calculation of immunization rates for your practice, and generation of accurate reminder/recall notifications. Entry of complete immunization histories also assists in minimizing unnecessary duplicate immunization administration.

**17. Do I have to ask permission from my patients to enter their information into NESIIS?**

Nebraska is an "opt-out" state in regards to immunization information in NESIIS. This means that State Statutes and supporting Rules and Regulations allow medical facilities to utilize a system (such as NESIIS) to store immunization records. Therefore, you do not have to ask for permission to enter your clients immunization records into NESIIS and you are not required to notify them that you are doing so.

However, families do have the choice of whether their records remain open in NESIIS, or not. If they chose to "Opt out" of the System then your facility has the ability to "lock" their record from view in the NESIIS system.

**18. How long do records stay in NESIIS?**

Forever; once an immunization history has been recorded into NESIIS it is maintained throughout a person's lifetime. For whatever reason a person may need to access or print out a copy of his or her immunization record, it will be available even from home or wherever internet access is available.

**19. Does NESIIS generate and print reminder/recall notices to patients?**

Yes. NESIIS has a built-in reminder/recall feature where an organization can scan all of their patient's records and select specific vaccines to recall. In this reminder/recall feature, providers can search by a child's school or primary care provider, specific demographic criteria, target date or birth date range, as well as specify certain exclusions of records that have already been recalled within a specific time.

**20. How do I participate or obtain additional information about NESIIS?**

Contact 888-433-2510 or 402-471-6520 to obtain provider and parent brochures about NESIIS.

**Or**

Email us at [nesiis.help@dhhs.ne.gov](mailto:nesiis.help@dhhs.ne.gov)



Immunization Program